

Unsung Heroes - Cantor Alane S. Katzew, BCC and Edits by Joanne Fink

There are unsung heroes.

Those who comfort and guide us,  
as the fallout creeps beyond the hospital walls  
and we must bury our dead.

We, grief stricken, weep for the loss of life.

These unsung heroes

**Retrieve** bodies at midnight,  
**Transport** them to the mortuary,  
**Prepare** them for burial,  
and **dig** their graves.

We struggle to adjust.

These unsung heroes

**Adapt** with overnight flexibility to new realities:  
**Enforce** the limit of ten,  
**Police** the six-foot distance,  
**Learn** and **facilitate** technology,  
for virtual funeral guests the world over.

We cope with these uncertain times.

These unsung heroes

**Tirelessly labor** in the shadows,  
**Scant notice taken** of their prodigious kindness,  
or the **dignity** they offer for our final goodbye.

To our unsung heroes,

**We** witness your sacred service  
now exponentially increased  
by the crushing number of lives lost.

**Your** calls for reinforcements from colleagues  
**They** help carry the unbearable load.

**For you**, our unsung heroes,  
who continue to provide hope and healing for others  
**We offer thanks.**

**We are grateful** for the burdens you shoulder,  
For the glimmers of light you shed,  
the compassion you provide.

**We praise you**, our unsung heroes,  
for your care and dedication,  
in the face of this pandemic.